



PATENT APPLICATION

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of

Docket No: Q56248

Ryuichi SHIOHARA

Appln. No.: 09/419,070

Group Art Unit: 2612

Confirmation No.: 9664

Examiner: Luong Trung NGUYEN

Filed: October 15, 1999

For: DIGITAL CAMERA AND METHOD OF CHANGING DATA PROCESSING
SEQUENCE USED FOR THE SAME

SUBMISSION OF APPEAL BRIEF

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

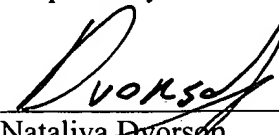
P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith please find an Appeal Brief. A check for the statutory fee of \$500.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37, Appellant submits the following:

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION, by virtue of an assignment recorded by the Assignment Branch of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 5, 2000, at Reel 010475, Frame 0698.

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II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

To the knowledge and belief of Appellant, the Assignee, and the undersigned, there are no other appeals or interferences before the Board of Appeals and Interferences that will directly affect or be affected by the Board's decision in the instant Appeal.

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III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,806,072 to Kuba et al. (hereinafter "Kuba").

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

With the filing of this Brief, all Amendments have been entered and considered by the Examiner.

The Application was originally filed with claims 1-4.

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 29, 2003, Appellant filed an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 on February 27, 2004 in which claims 1 and 4 were amended, and claims 5-8 were added.

In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 20, 2004, Appellant filed an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 on August 20, 2004 in which claims 1, 4, 5 and 7 were amended, and claim 9 was added.

The U.S. Patent and Trademarks Office issued an Advisory Action dated November 17, 2004 refusing the entry of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on August 20, 2004.

Appellant filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on January 21, 2005 to force entry of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on August 20, 2004.

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed February 10, 2005, Appellant filed an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 on June 10, 2005 in which claims 1, 4, and 9 were amended, and claims 10-12 were added.

A Supplemental Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 along with Statement of Substance of the Interview was filed on July 18, 2005 in which claims 11 and 12 were amended and claims 13 and 14 were added.

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In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2005, which indicates entry and consideration of claims 1-14, Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal, to appeal the final rejections of claims 1-14 on February 3, 2006.

The Appendix included with this Brief sets forth the claims involved in the appeal and reflects all of the claim amendments that have been entered by the Examiner.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

An aspect of the present invention is to allow a user to change the reproduction order of the images picked up by the digital camera. Specifically, the user views images on a first portion of the display of the digital camera by, for example, pressing next and previous buttons. When the user locates the image that is to be inserted into a different position, the user presses an insert button and the image whose position is to be changed is fixedly displayed on the first portion of the display. The user then continues to browse through the images on a second portion of the display to find an insert position. Once the insert position is found, the user designates whether the image to be inserted should be inserted before or after the found position. Upon user confirmation, the image switches its position to the user designated location (*see* Figs. 8(a)-8(c) and page 16, line 3 to page 17, line 11 of the specification).

The location of the inserted image is changed without physically moving the image data. That is, in the present invention, the digital camera includes a recording medium and extended recording medium for storing the picked up images in a thumbnail and jpeg format (Fig. 1(a); page 6, lines 4 to 6 and lines 14 to 19 of the specification) and a control section or control means such as a controller (Fig. 1(b); page 6, line 20 to page 7, line 1 of the specification).

The control section or means includes a control system for overall operation control of the digital camera, an operation judgment section for judging which operation is input by the user, and internal programs made up of programs for picking up images, generating JPEG image data, and controlling LED display at the time of picking up the image (Fig. 2; page 7, line 7 to page 8, line 8 of the specification). The internal programs further include the data management section and an image insertion section. The data management section manages the picked-up

image data similar to a file management executed in the personal computer. That is, to manage the image data stored in a recording medium and extended recording medium, a register list in a form of a data management file is provided which identifies the location of various image data files (page 8, line 19 to page 9, line 8).

The data management file is stored separately from the image data and has a management record for every image data. The management record included an image number (data type code or number, Fig. 3(a)), a recording start position, a recording end position (a recording start position and a recording end position is the address of the image data), a pointer indicating a continuous recording start position, associated image number (a corresponding number of the image data stored in the other format *i.e.*, image number of the jpeg image for the thumbnail image data and image number of the thumbnail for the jpeg image data) and a write inhibit/enable flag (Fig. 3(b); page 9, line 9 to page 11, line 3 of the specification).

In the present invention, to change the processing sequence of the recorded image data, a method is provided in which the logical sequence of the recorded image data is changed. A possible alternative is to change the physical sequence of the image data but this method is difficult to implement when the data is large (page 11, lines 4 to 6 and lines 20 to 23 of the specification).

To change the logical sequence of the recorded image data, the image number of the management record for that image data can be changed. Specifically, if an image data corresponding to a management record with an image number A5 is to be inserted between two management records with image numbers A1 and A2, respectively, then the data management record with the image number A5 is inserted into to the image record with the image number A2

and the data management record with the image number A2 is shifted to the data management record with the next image number (*e.g.*, A3) and so on. That is, in the present invention, the image data processing order is changed without physically changing the location of the image data (Figs. 4(a) and 4(b); page 13, lines 1 to 11 of the specification).

In an alternative embodiment, the image data is managed by a file management table that stores a pointer to a respective record in a file name management file and the recording start and end locations of the image data and by the file name management file that stores a file name and a pointer (indicating the processing sequence of the image data) that points to a location where a record for the image data is stored in the file management table (Figs. 5(a), 5(b), and 5(c); page 13, line 21 to page 14, line 5 of the specification). Accordingly, to change the processing sequence, only the pointers in the file name management file, that indicate the location of the record in the file management table need to be rearranged into the desired sequence (Figs. 6(a) and 6(b); page 14, lines 7 to 22 of the specification).

Claim 1

A digital camera for recording image data onto a recording medium by converting an image pickup light photoelectrically is provided (Fig. 1(a); page 2, lines 4 to 11 and page 5, lines 11 to 21 of the specification). The digital camera has an image data management file for storing a number of records. This image data management file is stored separately from the image data. Each record of the image data management file has a processing sequence, an image type, and a recording location of the recorded image data (Fig. 3(b); page 9, line 9 to page 10, line 13 of the specification). The image data management file is updated by the data management section of the control means, explained above (Fig. 2). Specifically, the processing sequence of the

recorded image data is updated by changing record location information of the recorded image data to record location information of another recorded image data (Figs. 4(a), 4(b), 6(a), and 6(b); page 12, lines 6 to 18 and page 13, line 21 to page 14, line 5).

Claim 11

Claim 11 further specifies that the record location information is a pointer to a storage location of a respective image data (Fig. 3(b), 5(a), and 5(b); page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 4, page 13, line 25 to page 14, line 2 of the specification).

Claim 12

Claim 12 further recites means for receiving a user request for a change of the processing sequence. Specifically, the request includes selecting an image from the image data and a position for the image in the processing sequence. Based on this selection, the updating means updates the image data management file (Figs. 8(a), 8(b), and 8(c); page 16, line 8 to page 17, line 11 of the specification).

Claim 13

Claim 13 further specifies that the image type is a format of the image and that the record location information is a parameter identifying at least one of a start position and an end position of a storage location that stores a respective image data (Fig. 3(b); page 9, lines 19 to 22 of the specification).

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Claim 14

Claim 14 indicates that the processing sequence is logically changed by changing the record location information while physical location of the image data remains unchanged (*see* page 9, lines 1 to 8 and page 12, lines 6 to 18 of the specification)..

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VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

There is one issue on Appeal. The issue is whether claims 1-14 are improperly finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,806,072 to Kuba et al. (hereinafter "Kuba").

VII. ARGUMENT

Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse the final rejections of the claims pending in the application for at least the following exemplary reasons.

Claims 1-14 are novel and are not anticipated by Kuba under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

A. Legal Standard

To be an “anticipation” rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every element and recitation of the Appellant’s claims. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art. Thus, the reference must clearly and unequivocally disclose every element and recitation of the claimed invention. Moreover, “anticipation under § 102 can be found only when the reference discloses exactly what is claimed and that where there are differences between the reference disclosure and the claim, the rejection must be based on § 103 which takes differences into account.” *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985); MPEP § 2131.

B. Exemplary Features of Claim 1

Independent claim 1 recites: “an image data management file for storing a plurality of recording information having a processing sequence, an image type and a recording location of the recorded image data, the image data management file being stored in the recording medium separately from the image data; and means for updating the image data management file, wherein the processing sequence of the recorded image data is updated by changing record location information of the recorded image data to record location information of another recorded image data.”

That is, a user may wish to change the sequence of the images so that the later images precede the former images. For example, the user may have taken a picture of object A at time 0, and then of object B at times 1, 2, and 3, and then again of object A at time 4. The user, then, may wish to rearrange the images so that the images of object A are displayed sequentially, thereby the user may wish to move the object A to appear between time 0 and time 1.

To facilitate this, the digital camera has an image data management file stored separately from the image data. This management file stores a number of records, where each record has among other items, a processing sequence number of the recorded image data. When a change in the processing sequence of the picked up images is desired, the records are updated. In particular, the pointer to the location of the picked up images is updated, thereby changing the processing sequence. Consequently, the processing sequence can be changed without rearranging the sequence of the actual image data.

C. Prior Art Reference

Kuba discloses an electronic imaging apparatus capable of storing image data as independent data or in groups based on the date the image was captured (col. 21, lines 40 to 45). That is, Kuba discloses storing image data in a hierarchical structure, thereby facilitating quick retrieval of image data for reproduction (col. 7, line 45 to col. 8, line 26).

Specifically, Kuba discloses a camera with two playback modes: a date sequential playback mode and a normal playback mode. When the date sequential mode is selected by a user, a system controller 39 of the electronic imaging apparatus reads out the header information indicative of the date the image was captured from the storage medium, in order to automatically reproduce the data in a date sequence (Fig. 22; col. 23, lines 4 to 45). That is, the controller 39

rearranges the reproduction sequence (Figs. 27(A) and 27(B); col. 23, lines 4 to 24). If the normal playback mode is selected, then image data is reproduced in the sequence the images are stored in the storage medium (col. 23, lines 11 to 15).

In Kuba, dates of the captured image is stored in a header separate from the intrinsic image data storage 22 (Fig. 23(A); col. 21, lines 32 to 39). Specifically, Kuba discloses a header, which stores group data (x^{th} image of z^{th} date) and a date. That is, for each picked-up image, a number of bytes are allocated to the header section and in the remaining bytes the image data is stored. A plurality of such data storage areas is formed in one IC memory card (Fig. 23(B); col. 21, lines 32 to 39). Accordingly, when the date sequential playback mode is selected, in Kuba, the randomly stored image data is reproduced sequentially by reading the header of each image data storage area (col. 23, lines 4 to 12).

In addition, Kuba discloses having a root directory where the file names may be rearranged, thereby altering the reproduction sequence. This root directory has file names, sequence numbers, links to other subdirectories, time and date, and attributes (Fig. 7, col. 15, lines 35 to 50). Kuba also discloses rearranging the sequence of reproduction without shifting actual image data in the data file areas but instead by changing the directory entry sequence of the root directory *e.g.*, by rearranging file names in the root directory (Figs. 30A-B; col. 23, line 66 to col. 24, line 11).

D. Examiner's Position

The Examiner maintains that Kuba's root directory discloses the data management file set forth in claim 1, and that a playback sequence shown in Figs. 27A and B of Kuba, time or date, and the numbering, shown on the side in Figs. 27A and 27B, respectively disclose the processing

sequence, an image type, and a recording location stored in the records of the management file, as set forth in claim 1 (*see* pages 2 and 3 of the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2005).

E. Appellant's Position

Appellant respectfully submits that this rejection is technically inaccurate at least for the following exemplary reasons.

With respect to Figs. 27A and 27B, Kuba states that:

The management of predetermined data stored randomly in data file areas in the storage medium in the date sequential playback mode will be described with reference to FIG. 27. When the sequence of storage in the storage medium is random and without relation to the pick-up sequence as shown in FIG. 27(A), the system controller 19 reads out the date information and rearranges the sequence of reproduction such as to conform to the date sequence as shown in FIG. 27(B) (col. 23, lines 15 to 24).

That is, the numbering depicted in Figs. 27A and B is to show to the reader of the reference the change in sequence for reproduction of the stored image data. In Kuba, there is no disclosure that record location information is changed.

Moreover, if, as alleged by the Examiner that Kuba's root directory discloses the claimed data management file, then there is no teaching of updating location information of the record in the management file. That is, Kuba does not disclose or suggest that when the sequence is rearranged for the reproduction, record location information that is stored in the management file is updated.

In Kuba, the reproduction sequence may be changed by moving records in the root directory. For example, in Kuba, file name may be rearranged to change the reproduction

sequence of images. In other words, Kuba discloses modifying the reproduction sequence from the storage sequence by rearranging records in the root directory *e.g.*, by rearranging file names. In Kuba, however, the processing sequence is not updated based on the record location information. In other words, Kuba fails to teach or suggest updating the processing sequence, as set forth in claim 1. In Kuba, there is no record location information that can be updated to change the processing sequence. Moreover, Kuba only discloses having file names associated with time and date (Fig. 7, col. 15, lines 35 to 50). However, time and date information is not information indicating an image type.

For at least these exemplary reasons, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes from Kuba. Therefore, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse this rejection of claim 1.

F. Other Claims

Claims 2, 3, and 11-14 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

In addition, dependent claim 11 recites: “the record location information is a pointer to a storage location of a respective image data.” The Examiner alleges that col. 37, lines 18-20 and col. 38, lines 33-37 of Kuba disclose the unique feature of claim 11 (*see* page 6 of the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2005).

Col. 37, lines 18-20 of Kuba recite: “[t]hen, the image data start position pointer is written in the file header (step S255), and then the attribute information is written in the file header (step S256), thus completing the routine.” The above-quoted passage, however, is unrelated to the root directory (*alleged* management file, *see* page 3 of the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2005).

Similarly, col. 38, lines 33 to 37 of Kuba recite: “Individual image data files (B) to (E) have respective header sections 1 to 4 and image data sections 1 to 4. In an attribute area of each header section is described information necessary for the image reproduction (such as a pointer indicative of the start position of image data in each file, the compression system and various tables for data compression and expansion). In the image data section, image data is stored.” Again, the above-quoted passage is unrelated to the root directory (*alleged* management file). In other words, the root directory does not have the pointer indicative of the start position. In Kuba, it is the image data files that have a header with a pointer and image data in the body of the file.

Since claim 1 recites: “an image data management file for storing a plurality of recording information having a processing sequence, an image type and a recording location” and claim 11, which depends on claim 1, further specifies that the recording location information is a pointer, Kuba would need to disclose that a root directory includes pointers to respective storage locations of the respective image data. Kuba, on the other hand, discloses that the root directory only has pointer to the higher and lower levels in the hierarchy of a group data (Figs. 5 and 6; col. 15, lines 24 to 50). In other words, in Kuba, the root directory does not have a pointer to a storage location of the respective image data (as set forth in claim 11) that would be changed to a record location information of another image data (as set forth in claim 1).

In short, if, as alleged by the Examiner, the hierarchical directory of Kuba discloses the image data management file, then Kuba fails to disclose the root directory including a recording location information, which is a pointer to a storage location of the image data, as set forth in claim 11. Moreover, Kuba fails to disclose or suggest rearranging the location pointers to

change the processing sequence of the image data, as required by claim 11 that depends on claim 1.

For at least these additional exemplary reasons, claim 11 patentably distinguishes from Kuba.

Dependent claim 12 recites: “means for receiving a user request for a change of the processing sequence, where said request comprises selecting an image from the image data and a position for the image in the processing sequence; and wherein the updating means updates the image data management file based on the user request.”

The Examiner alleges that Kuba’s operational unit 38 discloses the unique features set forth in claim 12 (*see* page 6 of the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2005). Specifically, the Examiner relies on col. 21, lines 29 to 31 of Kuba, which recites: “the hardware further comprises a display 37 for displaying various operation modes, an operation unit 38 for causing various operations, and a system controller 39 for controlling the above various constituent elements.” Kuba, however, fails to disclose a user request including selecting an image and a position of the image in the processing sequence, as required in claim 12.

That is, Kuba only discloses displaying two operation modes for the user to select. Specifically, Kuba discloses randomly storing a plurality of records of predetermined image data and rearranging them automatically in date sequence (col. 23, lines 4 to 45). In particular, Kuba discloses that the operator selects a playback mode (either normal playback mode or date sequential), and when the date sequential playback mode is selected, the controller checks the date of capture for each image data. In other words, in Kuba, when the playback mode is date

sequential, the header information is used to organize data based on the date of the image (Fig. 26; col. 23, lines 24 to 65).

In Kuba, however, the user cannot take a random image and place it in any desired location within the captured images. That is, in Kuba, the user is not selecting an image from the image data and a position for the image in the processing sequence. In Kuba, the images are rearranged by date and not based on user selection to change a position of an image. In short, Kuba clearly fails to disclose or suggest a user request that specifies an image and the position in the processing sequence for the image, as set forth in claim 12.

Since Kuba only discloses various operation modes, the rejection is improper at least because it lacks “sufficient specificity” required under 102. “[A]nticipation under § 102 can be found only when the reference discloses exactly what is claimed and that where there are differences between the reference disclosure and the claim, the rejection must be based on § 103 which takes differences into account.” *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985); MPEP § 2131.

For at least these additional exemplary reasons, claim 12 patentably distinguishes from Kuba.

Dependent claim 13 recites: “the image type is a format of the image and wherein the record location information is a parameter identifying at least one of a start position and an end position of a storage location that stores a respective image data.” The Examiner alleges that Kuba discloses the image type being a format of the image and the record location information being a parameter identifying one of a start position and an end position (*see* page 6 of the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2005).

However, the Examiner's rejection is inconsistent with the rejection that forth with respect to claim 1 on which claim 13 depends. That is, claim 1 requires that the image type and the record location information are stored in the image data management file (*allegedly disclose by Kuba's root directory*). The passages cited by the Examiner with respect to claim 13, however, relates to the actual image data files and not to the root directory (col. 28, lines 42 to 50, col. 37, lines 18 to 20 and col. 38, lines 33 to 37). Accordingly, if the Examiner alleges that Kuba's root directory discloses the image data management file, as set forth in claim 1, then Kuba's root directory does not store the format of the image and a parameter identifying at least one of a start and end positions, as required by claim 13.

For at least these additional exemplary reasons, claim 13 patentably distinguishes from Kuba.

Dependent claim 14 recites: "the image data management file is provided separately from the image data, and wherein the processing sequence is logically changed by changing the record location information while physical location of the image data remains unchanged." The Examiner presents the same arguments for the dependent claim 14 as presented for claim 1. However, the arguments set forth on pages 6-7 of the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2005 (that the playback sequence is changed but not the physical location of the image data) remains unsupported. That is, Figs. 27A and 28B clearly do not disclose anything about the physical locations of the image data and changing their processing sequence, as explained in greater detail above.

The Final Office Action alleges that "there is no mention to the change of physical location of the image data, this means that physical location of the image data remains

unchanged” (*see* page 7 of the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2005). This, however, amounts to a mere speculation and is clearly improper under 35 U.S.C. § 102, which requires that the reference teach every element and recitation of the Applicants’ claims. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art. Thus, the reference must clearly and unequivocally disclose every element and recitation of the claimed invention. In short, the Final Office Action fails to establish by a preponderance of evidence that Kuba discloses that the physical location of the image data remains unchanged in Figs. 27A and 28B, as required in claim 14.

For at least this additional exemplary reason, claim 14 patentably distinguishes from Kuba.

Next, independent claims 4 and 5 recite features similar to, although not necessarily coextensive with, the features argued above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, arguments presented with respect to claim 1 are respectfully submitted to apply with equal force here. For at least substantially analogous reasons, therefore, independent claims 4 and 5 are patentably distinguishable from Kuba.

Claims 6-8 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 5 and claim 9 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 4.

At least for all of the above exemplary reasons, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse this rejection of claims 2-14.

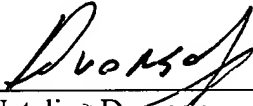
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VIII. CONCLUSION

Unless a check is submitted herewith for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §41.37(a) and 1.17(c), please charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 3, 2006

Attorney Docket No.: Q56248

CLAIMS APPENDIX

CLAIMS 1-14 ON APPEAL:

1. A digital camera for recording image data onto a recording medium by converting an image pickup light photoelectrically, comprising:

an image data management file for storing a plurality of recording information having a processing sequence, an image type and a recording location of the recorded image data, the image data management file being stored in the recording medium separately from the image data; and

means for updating the image data management file,

wherein the processing sequence of the recorded image data is updated by changing record location information of the recorded image data to record location information of another recorded image data.

2. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

display means for displaying the recorded image data,

wherein an order of which the image data are displayed on the display means is changed in compliance with the change of the processing sequence.

3. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

output means for outputting the recorded image data to an external device,

wherein an order of which the image data are outputted to the external device is changed in compliance with the change of the processing sequence.

4. A method of changing processing sequence of image data recorded in a recording medium of a digital camera by converting an image pick up light photoelectrically, the digital camera with an image data management file for storing a plurality of recording information having a processing sequence and a recording location information of the recorded image data, the image data management file stored into the recording medium separately from the image data, the method comprising:

deciding processing sequence of predetermined image data; and

updating the processing sequence of the recorded image data by changing recording location information of the recorded image data to record location information of another recorded image data.

5. A digital camera for recording image data onto a recording medium by converting an image pickup light photoelectrically, comprising:

an image data management file having a plurality of management records for recorded image data; and

means for updating said image data management file,

wherein each of said management records has at least record location information, image data type and an image number, a plurality of which form a processing sequence of said recorded image data; and

wherein the processing sequence of the recorded image data is updated by changing the record location information of the recorded image data to another record location information of another recorded image data.

6. The digital camera as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

display means for displaying the recorded image data,

wherein an order of which the image data are displayed on the display means is changed in compliance with the change of the processing sequence.

7. The digital camera as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

output means for outputting the recorded image data to an external device,

wherein an order of which the image data are outputted to the external device is changed in compliance with the change of the processing sequence.

8. The digital camera as set forth in claim 5, wherein said management file is updated by changing at least one said record location for at least one said image number of said management records, thereby changing said processing sequence.

9. The method according to claim 4, wherein said image data comprises at least two file format types.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein a record for an image data in one format is correlated to a record of a respective image data in another format.

11. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the record location information is a pointer to a storage location of a respective image data.

12. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising means for receiving a user request for a change of the processing sequence, where said request comprises selecting an image from the image data and a position for the image in the processing sequence; and wherein the updating means updates the image data management file based on the user request.

13. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the image type is a format of the image and wherein the record location information is a parameter identifying at least one of a start position and an end position of a storage location that stores a respective image data.

14. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the image data management file is provided separately from the image data, and wherein the processing sequence is logically changed by changing the record location information while physical location of the image data remains unchanged.

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX:

NONE.

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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE.